

CAPSULE SUMMARY - ALLEN BARN 'D' (CT-1045)

The youngest of the Spider Hall barns, this modern barn is constructed of circular sawn timbers and wire nails. Located closest to the center of the residential area of the farm, this barn is rather unusual in two areas. The relatively small barn was constructed as a multi-purpose farm building. In addition to curing tobacco, the barn had areas designed and adapted for hay storage, stabling, raising chickens and vehicle storage. The bulk of the 44 x 28 transverse axis plan, bank built barn was constructed at one time. The pole supported tin vehicle storage shed was added by the present owner. Gambrel roofs, like the one here, are relatively rare in Calvert County tobacco barns, and are seen only after World War II.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Allen Barn D

2. Location

street & number 3915 Hallowing Pt. Rd. __ not for publication

city, town Barstpw __ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Edward Allen

street & number Spider Hall Farm, 3915 Hallowing Pt. telephone no.: 535-5980

Rd.
city, town Barstow state and zip code MD 20610

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber JLB 129

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 31

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING __ federal __ state __ county __ local

pository for survey records COURT HOUSE
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20673

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-1045

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attachment.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1045

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support. See Attachment.

7. DESCRIPTION CT-1045

There are a total of four barns on Spider Hall farm. The barns nearest the nineteenth-century farm house are the most recent in date. Allen barn D is on the south side of the farm road and nearest the farm house. Allen barn D is located uphill from Allen Barns A, B and C. It is oriented on an east-west axis. It measures forty-four by twenty-eight feet and has a transverse axis plan. The timbers are circular sawn and the nails are all wire. It is built into the hill and the south side has a lower level that extends as far back as the mid-point of the barn. This barn has multiple purposes among which were the curing, storage, and stripping of tobacco.

Doors to the barn are centered along each facade wall. Immediately upon entering the barn through the large sliding door that is located on the north facade, there is an area termed "Room 1" which was primarily used to hang tobacco. The eastern part of room one has an area slightly below grade that is an enclosed and completely sided stable. This area is covered by a loft floor seven feet above grade. The upper level above the stable area was used to hang tobacco. There is a central aisle in room one that served for vehicle access. Beyond room one is an area that will be termed room two. The floor of room two is two feet above grade. In its southwest section there was a corn crib. The entire room was floored and used for hay storage. Tobacco was hung in the upper levels of this room also. An early door is located along the southern wall of room two, and this was apparently used to load hay from a wagon which could be backed up to the south wall. Due to the descending topography of the site, the south side of the barn is built into a bank. The barn has a gambrel roof.

The barn is divided into the several rooms divided by means of internal cross-sills. Bay distances vary from eight to eleven feet. The barn contains eleven tobacco hanging rooms. The medium weight timbers are circular sawn and affixed with wire nails. Battened vertical siding covered all of the barn, presumably because it served so many purposes and needed to be warmer for livestock. The tier poles are both circular sawn and peeled logs separated by forty-four inches vertical distance.

The area underneath room two of the barn (forty four feet long and fourteen feet wide) is built into the bank and has rooms with separate functions. Among the rooms built into the bank below the barn are, in order from east to west, a chicken coop, an equipment storage area, and two stripping rooms (one heated). A large fifteen foot wide metal-roofed vehicle storage aisle with a lean-to roof was added along this southern facade at a later date. This addition is characterized by modern posts on concrete piers.

8. DESCRIPTION CT-1045

This barn was built sometime during the twentieth century. It is significant architecturally primarily because of the many purposes that the structure fulfilled. Not only was tobacco hung and stripped here, but horses, chickens, and equipment were all housed here. As such, the structure of the barn reflects its multi-purpose use. The battened vertical wall siding helped to keep the animals warm. The gambrel roof helped to create a larger amount of upper level tobacco hanging space. This was necessary in a barn where so much of the lower level space was taken up with other purposes.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period theme(s): Twentieth Century

Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD

Chronological/Developmental Period: Twentieth Century

Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn, Stable, Chicken House, Vehicle shed

The major change to this barn was the addition of the lean-to vehicle storage shed. Mr. Allen does not know when the barn was built, so therefore it was constructed by 1955 when he and his family moved to the farm. He is responsible for the construction of the vehicle shed.

ALLEN RAMP #2018 3/6/90 TL 1" - 10'

CT-1045

W side barn

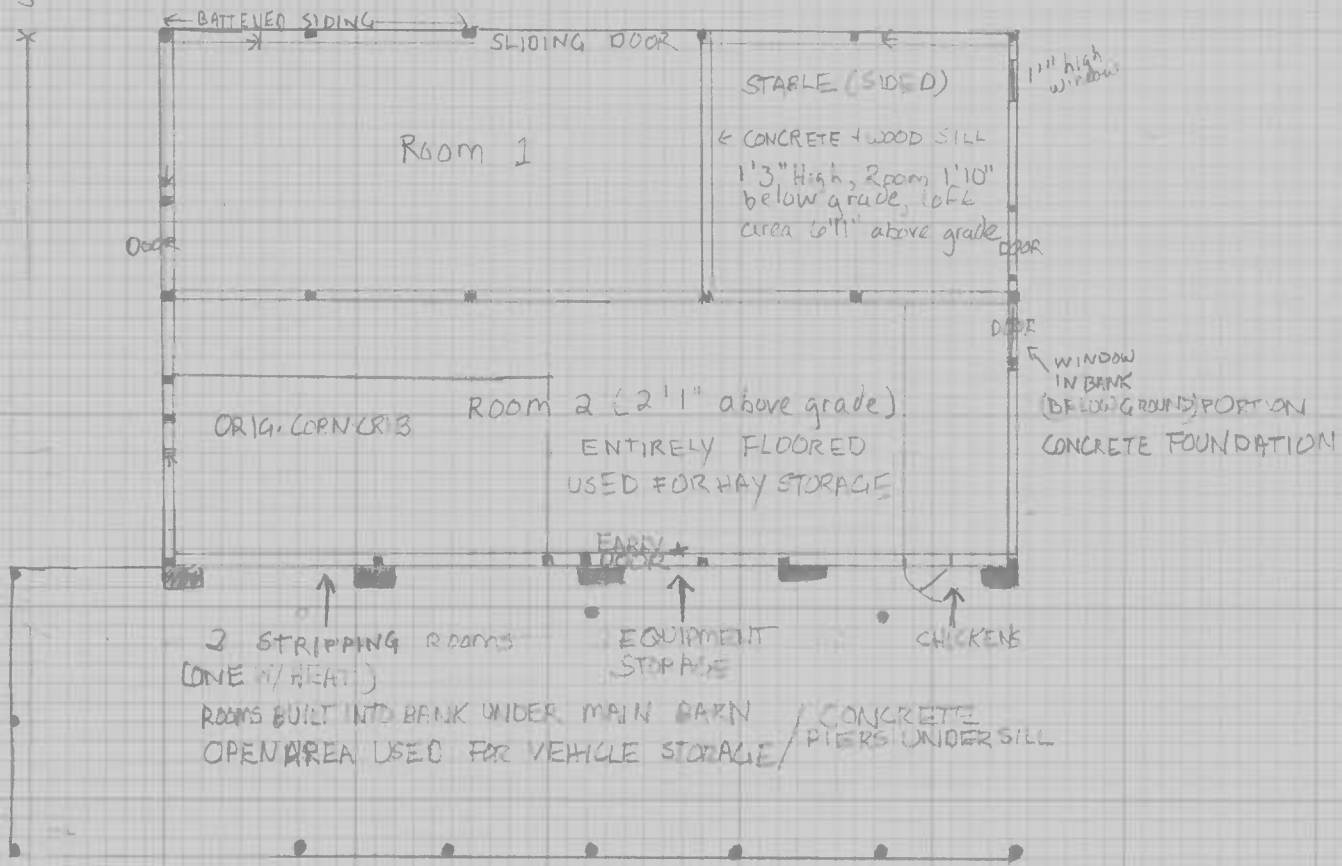
N side barn

S side barn

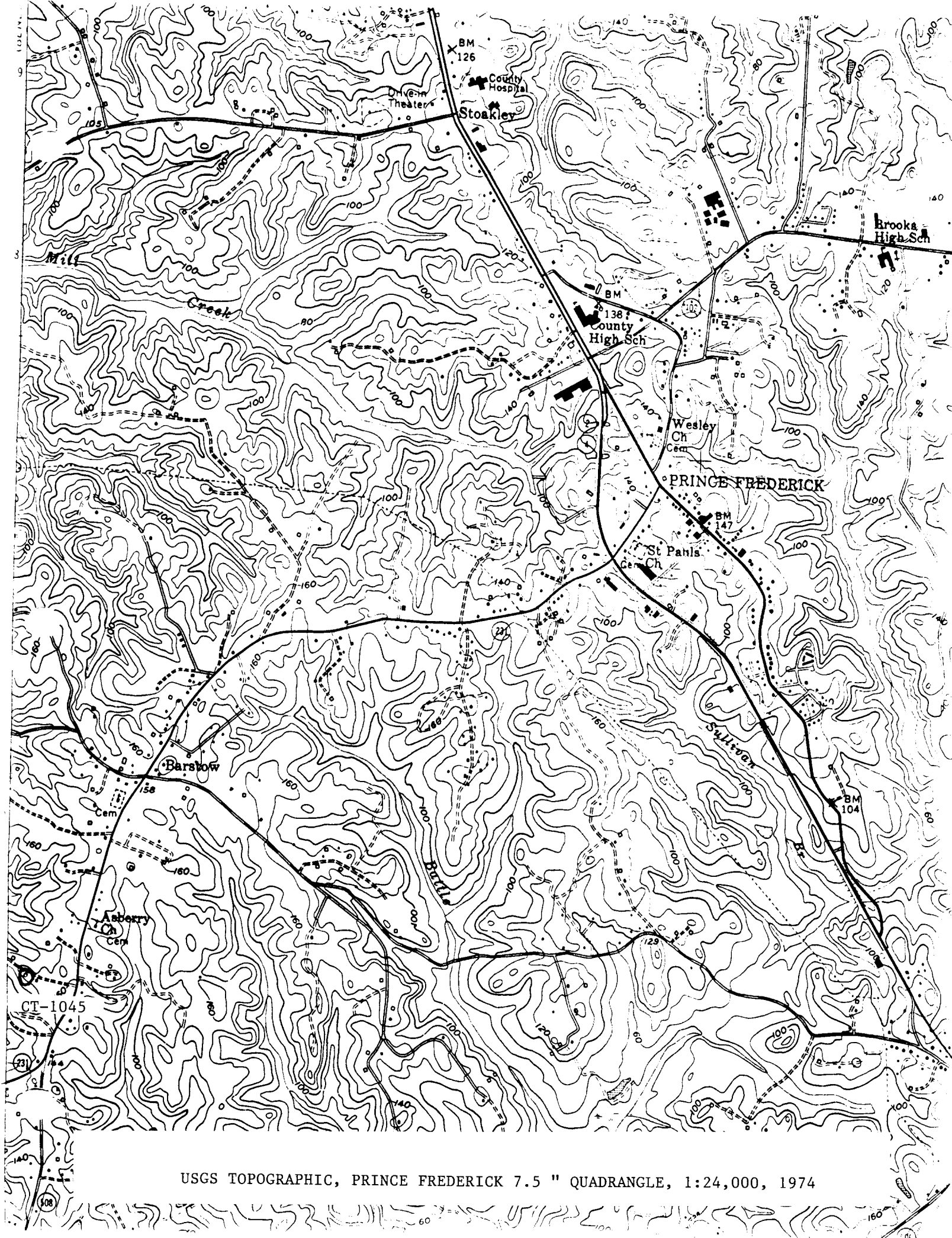
48 heavy 2x6s
4x4 VLB 3"
tie down 6x4x4
+ brace
posts 6x6
rulers 4x3
all wire racks
circ. saw
Battenock siding
all @

* Door predates
sectn of shed
built in bank
served as hay
loading area

Tobacco hung in Rooms 1, 2,
upper level of stable
except vehicle access area



52' 40' 43' Door 57.10' 32' 113' 30' 74' 1' 7X N side shed



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, PRINCE FREDERICK 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974

